it is reported by the State Government, we take speedy steps.

श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, आपको बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कितना टारगेट ब्रिजेज बनाने का या पुल बनाने का था और क्या आपने यह आंकलन किया है कि उनमें से कितने पुल बन सके हैं या अभी अधूरे हैं और कितने बनाने के लिए बाकी है? मेरे प्रश्न का भाग "ब" यह है कि राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों से क्या कभी आपने बातचीत की है कि उनकी क्या कठिनाइयां हैं और उन कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए आपने क्या क्या प्रयास किए हैं या संयुक्त रूप से इस कठिनाई के निराकरण के लिए आपने क्या सोचा है?

SHTI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, the question is of a general nature and I could not understand what actually he is asking. He has asked a question with regard to the entire region. Therefore, I need a separate notice.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, my clearcut question is whether any assessment has been made, how many bridges were completed during the Eighth Five-Year Plan out of the number of bridges targeted and how many of them are incomplete? Did the Minister or his Ministry consult the U.P. Government and the Officers of the U.P. Government from time to time as to what difficulties they had and what special steps were taken to solve those problems. This is a simple and specific question. If this is not a specific question, what else is a specific question? I am asking about his assessment during the Eighth Five-Year Plan. An assessment of the Eighth Five-Year Plan will form the basis of the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, I will submit a detailed answer to my learned friend. During 1992-97, we sanctioned a total amount of Rs. 12,799 lakhs. The work has been going on on the basis of the allotted amount.

With regard to the statistics about each region, I have not received any report from the State Government. As and when a report comes, we will take care of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 163. Hon. Member is absent.

*163. [*The questioner (Shri Sanjay Dalmia) was absent. For answer, vide cols ... infra*].

Textile export growth in 1996-97

*164. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the ovrall growth in textile exports during 1996-97 especially in cotton yarn and woollens; and

(b) the action proposed to improve quality in fabric production and restructuring technology especially for garment sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) According to provisional figures available with the Ministry of Textiles, the overall textile export growth in dollar terms during 1996-97 (upto January, 1997) is 9.9% and in terms of rupees 17.9%. The growth in respect of cotton yarn is 47.5% in terms of dollars and 58.3% in terms of rupees in 96-97. Similarly, the growth in the wool and woollen exports is 44.4% in dollar terms and 54.9% in rupee terms in 1996-97.

(b) The following measures are being taken to improve the quality in fabric production and technological upgradation of garment sector:

(i) The customs duty on the textile machinery was reduced from 25% to 10% in the year 1996-97 and in the present budget i.e. 1997-98, it was proposed to add some more processing machines to this category. This would help the industry to produce high quality fabric. Further in the present budget, it was also proposed to reduce customs duty from 40% to 30% on

dyes pigments, paints and varnishes, glues, enzymes and modified straches which will significantly benefit the textile industry.

(ii) An action plan is being implemented for upgradation in the spinning sector and healthy growth in cotton yarn exports.

(iii) Institutions like the National Institute of Fashion Technology and the Apparel Training and Design Centres have been established to make available skilled manpower at managerial and shopfloor levels.

(iv) The pragmatic Cotton Yarn Export Policy followed over the years has resulted in qualitative upgradation in the spinning sector and healthy growth in cotton yarn exports.

(v) The Textiles Committee, the Textiles Research Associations and the concerned Textiles Export Promotion Councils are taking steps to create quality consciousness among the textile exporters.

(vi) A technological upgradation fund to enhance the competitive efficiency of textile industry is on the anvil.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Textiles was increasingly becoming sick since 1985. Hardly 600 mills have come up taking the total to 1,569 only. India lacked world class standards in fabric production. Chinese exports in 1995 were $13.92 billion; and Hong Kong $13.81 billion. As against that India's exports were $3.83 billion. There has been 1.9 per cent negative growth in the textile export target in December, 1996. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are the steps taken by the Government for its revival in global garment market, especially in upgradation of weaving and processing technology?

SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that our garment industry has not come up to the expectations. That is why in the last Budget of 1996-97, we reduced the import duty by 15 per cent for import of machinery which were required for weaving and processing and also for the garment industry. This year also in our Budget we have proposed some concessions to this industry. We have reduced the import duty on dyes and other things. We have reduced the duty by 10 per cent on spare parts to be imported. Now we have set apart a certain amount for modernisation and it is known as "modernisation fund". We know that we are very weak in processing and we have to strengthen our processing. After all, our share in the global market is only 2.4 per cent. I agree that China, Hong Kong and Bangladesh are big competitors to us. As far as these things are concerned, we are trying to update our industry.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second point is that major Asian players like South Korea, Thailand and Hong Kong are reconstructing the garment sector in terms of technology. In India not even 10 per cent of the technology in the weaving and processing sector has been upgraded. So, will the Government create a technology fund mainly for upgrading these sectors? If so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the recent Budget that was announced on the 28th of last month, we have already stated that we are going to create "technology fund". The details of it would be worked out in the next one or two months. Thereafter it would be brought into force.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that the Multi Fibre Arrangement is going to be over by the year 2005. India is going to face hard competition from other countries, including the developing countries, in the field of textile exports. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the specific action plan he is going to take which he has referred to in para 2 of the

statement which has been laid on the Table of the House with reference to the question particularly in the context of the abolition or withering out of the MFA? In this connection, I would also like to know from the Minister what has been the actual disbursement of the technological upgradation fund? I understand that it has been in operation for quite some time. What has been the actual disbursement from this fund for technological upgradation?

SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the technological development fund is concerned, it was not in vogue during the Seventh five Year Plan. It has been decided to bring it in force during the Eighth five Year Plan. Then the hon. Member put a question as to what steps are being taken by us to improve the quality of fabrics and garments. I have already informed the House that we are reducing the customs duty on dyes, pigments, paints and varnishes, glues, enzymes and modified starches from 40 per cent to 30 per cent, exempting the export profit from MAT, reducing import duty on apparel grade wool from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. We propose to create a 'Technology Upgradation Fund'. We propose to reduce import duty on wool waste from 30 per cent to 20 per cent and on woollen and synethetic rags from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, all these things have already been mentioned in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister. He is just reading out the speech of the Finance Minister.

SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: In fact, these are the steps which we propose to take.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister is reading out from the Finance Minister's speech.

SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: When the hon. Members want me to inform them about the steps that the Government is proposing to take, I have to state all these things. These are the steps we are proposing to take. We have strengthened our system and we have developed computer-aided design centres. We have also set up laboratories for testing the dyes. We are taking all these steps.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Sir, as far as technological aspects are concerned, I am given to understand that there is no coordination among various research centres in this industry. There are nine centres which are doing research in the production of textile goods. I am also told that the Government is extending some benefits or even giving funds to these centres. But I understand that there is no coordination among these centres. One innovation or research product is not passed on to the other centre so that there is some type of monopoly which is being cornered by the same people. In view of all these things, can there be a better coordination among these research centres so that we can compete in the world market in terms of export?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, as far as I know, there is complete coordination among all these research centres. If the hon. Member gives me some specific information, I will definitely look into it and see to it that if some wrong has been done, the same is set right.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, so far as textile industry is concerned the hon. Minister is informing the House about the growth in exports. But the real situation is otherwise. As far as NTC is concerned, the real situation is that industries were closed down and every year, the NTC is losing more than 400 crores of rupees. Old machinery and law output are responsible for this loss. Even the yarn that they are producing is of inferior quality. These are the main reasons for the loss. At a time when the Government takes up the programme to go in for spinning, there is a slump in the market. Therefore, the yarn is not being sold at a profitable rate in the internatinal market. So, there are various factors which are responsible for the losses in the National Textile Corporation. So, apart

from going in for modernisation and upgradation of technology, what steps are being proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the National Textiles Corporation out of the red? What steps is the Government going to take in respect of the textile mills that have been closed down? Some of them are in the red. What steps does the Government propose to take? Until and unless you earn, how can you export?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, there are 1,500 spinning mills in our country and we are exporting from all the sectors—from handlooms, from powerlooms and also from spinning mills. Our export from the NTC mills is very limited. As far as spinning is concerned, our production is only 2.5 per cent and as far as weaving is concerned, it is 0.04 per cent. We are not completely depending on the NTC mills for export. Secondly, the NTC has got its own sorrowful story and it requires a major operation now. My distinguished predecessor had a plan for Rs. 2,500 crores to modernise some of the mills. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am talking of restructuring of the National Textile Corporation. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: That is what I am telling you. *(Interruptions)*... I am replying to that. *(Interruptions)*... Please have patience. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I am trying to see that it is set right. Please bear with me. *(Interruptions)*... Please bear with me. This amount of Rs. 2,500 crores can be realised only by selling the excess land available with these mills. Eighty per cent of the money has to come from Bombay. I think the amount is Rs. 1,946 crores. The Government of Maharashtra is not allowing us to sell the land. For the information of the Members, Mr. Sangma, the then Labour Minister, along with my distinguished predecessor met the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Subsequently, Mr. Kamal Nath met the Chief Minister. I met him twice. But unfortunately I have not yet received any positive reply from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Unless I really get that money, it may not be possible. So, we are now taking it up unit-wise. I have asked the officers to look into the profit and loss of each unit and to find out how many mills could be revived and how many mills could not be revived after modernisation. They are working on it. They have submitted a report. It is under consideration of the Government. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Why is not the Chief Minister co-operating with the Central Government when you want to revive the sick mills giving employment to thousands of labourers? *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: This question may kindly be posed to the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am not a Member of the Legislature of Maharashtra. I am a Member of this House. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jibon Roy. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Sir, I am from Maharashtra. I can explain. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called Mr. Jibon Roy *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, why should I ask the Chief Minister of Maharashtra? I can only ask the Minister of Textiles. The hon. Textiles Minister should answer my question. I am not a Member of the Legislature of Maharashtra. I can only ask the hon. Textiles Minister. He should ensure that they agree to the terms and conditions of Government of India. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called Mr. Jibon Roy. Please. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: The revival of NTC mills. ...*(Interruptions)*... A new agreement was signed. But no step has been taken by the Government of India on the question of revival. There is an objection only to the method of selling the land. Why don't the Government lease out the land?

If they lease out the land, they will get much more funds out of it. It is within the powers of the Central Government. I would like to know what steps the Central Government is taking to convince the Government of Maharashtra about the matter. If there is any problem in Maharashtra, why have steps not been taken in the case of other States? Let steps be taken in other places. In the meantime, you can think about Maharashtra.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I had gone to hon. Chief Minister twice. I had a full discussion with him along with his other Ministers, Chief Secretary and others. I explained to them all the pros and cons of this project. *(Interruptions)*... Let me reply. *(Interruptions)*... Let me reply. *(Interruptions)*... If they don't want any reply, all right. *(Interruptions)*... I can't help that. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: We are talking of the NTC. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. I will call you.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: The hon. Member has raised a question. If there is any problem in Maharashtra, why don't we try to do it in other States? Yes, Sir, I have tried it. I don't know whether he has seen it. We have invited tenders for two subsidiaries, Tamil Nadu and APPKM. What has happened is this. In the case of Tamil Nadu the rates were very less. They rejected the tender. In the case of APPKM in Andhra Pradesh they have gone to court. In Kerala the Chief Minister has made a statement that he is not going to allow the land to be sold. Some of the people have gone to the High Court and got a stay order. All these problems are there. I am not sleeping. *(Interruptions)*... But the problem is serious. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Minister, nobody said that you were sleeping. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, getting a plan drafted is very easy. But to get it executed is really a problem. *(Interruptions)*... To ride a horse we require four horseshoes. With only one horseshoe, we cannot ride a horse. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Why is the Government not taking the route of lease? They should lease out the land. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 165.

Inclusion of Telecommunication in Definition of Infrastructure

*165. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have included tele-communications in the definition of infrastructure for getting the establishment benefits; and

(b) if so, whether manufacture of cables, tele-communications equipments, paging services, mobile trunk services and the allied activities will also be covered under the umbrella of tele-communications so as to make available the various benefits of the infrastructure sector?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) दूरसंचार को प्राथमिकता का क्षेत्र मानने की सरकार की समग्र नीति के अनुरूप तथा अत्यधिक पूंजीगत निवेश की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए, सैल्यूलर तथा बुनियादी दूरसंचार सेवा उद्योग को आधारभूत अवसंरचना मानने का निर्णय लिया गया है। जिससे उन्हें कतिपय वित्तीय लाभ मिल सकेंगे।

(ख) जी नहीं। केवल सैल्यूलर तथा बुनियादी सेवा उद्योगों को ही शामिल किया जा रहा है।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल: माननीय सभापति महोदय, 13 मई, 1994 को सैंट्रल टेलिकॉम [illegible] इस सदन के सम्मुख प्रस्तुत की गई थी। उस समय छठीं पंचवर्षीय